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The Evans & Reeves Grapevine

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NO. 11

ARBOR OF SEVILLE

NEW FACTOTUM

At the outset of our plant-of-the-month article we must urge you to erase from your mind the picture envisioned at the mention of the plant, "orange." Do away with the picture of the handsome round-headed tree which graces many a Southern California garden or which may be encountered grove after grove on a Sunday drive, for the orange we eagerly present for your consideration is not a round green ball atop a standard trunk (though it could be so trained) but a glossy green pyramid, a shrub vigorously branched from the base up, fragrant with blossoms, and with the promise of a famous fruit: the SEVILLE ORANGE!

Probably your sole encounter with the Seville (Sour) Orange (*Citrus aurantium*) is in a jar of tart English style marmalade, and it is this passing acquaintanceship which we would like to convert into one of lasting pleasure by providing you with one or more of these locally overlooked plants. Behind the English accent lies a lengthy Spanish heritage, for in Spain it has been widely cultivated and admired for generations since its arrival from Southern Asia. In the United States it has been universally used as stock for the sweet commercial oranges (demonstrating its vigor and resistance!) and has been largely ignored by commercial growers, which in turn has kept it from becoming well-known in the home garden. However, as an exceedingly ornamental shrub of upright habit, used singly or as a striking hedge (consider the effect of a bright green screen planting fragrant with blossoms or gay with brilliant orange fruits!) the Seville Orange can take its place at the head of the list of useful plants for local gardens.

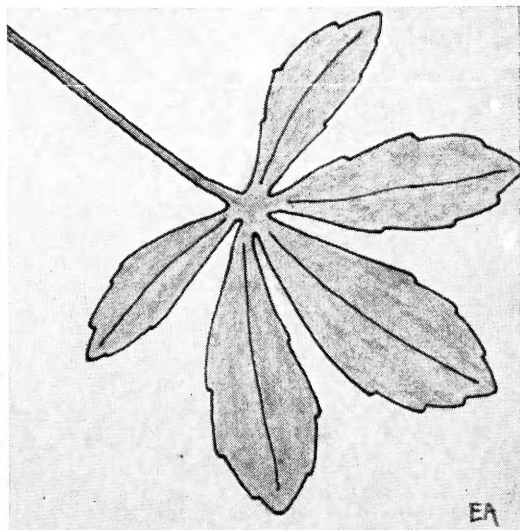
The hardiness of the Seville Orange is not the least of its virtues, for it survives temperatures that peril *Ficus nitida*, a

(Continued on inside page)

Hail The Aralia! Now Pseudopanax

Aralias are certainly useful plants! Some species grow large, some remain small; there are types happy in the sun and others fine in the shade; several flourish as pot plants indoors. We're quite willing to admit our weakness for the family—fact of the matter is, we have been pursuing new and different species for a number of years and with fair success, too!

But to get down to cases, we were about to sound off about PSEUDOPANAX LES-



SONI, one of several species which we intend to discuss in a series of these articles. (Don't believe that slander about Pseudopanaxes being "horticulturally unimportant" that you'll find in the Standard Cyclopedia. The genus is one of great variety, even within a species and is incompletely observed under cultivation here by horticulturalists and botanists. As a matter of fact, our subject this month is one of a group of Pseudopanaxes discovered on Captain Cook's earliest voyage to the South Pacific and brought back to Kew Gardens for study. As a breed these

(Continued on inside page)

Hugh Evans

WEATHERING THE WEATHER

IT'S TIME FOR

"In a genus of plants like the present, abounding in noble trees and handsome shrubs, airy and elegant in their foliage, and bedecked with specious inflorescence, the propriety of bestowing a name denoting superlative beauty upon any individual species may be somewhat questionable. Whatever of hyperbole there may appear in that assigned to the plant before us, the beauty and loveliness of its characters entitle it to some corresponding epithet to distinguish it; and though there may be other species equally meriting admiration and distinction, there is none more worthy of ranking among the fairest ornaments of the tribe."

Over a hundred years have flown since these rather ornate lines were penned by Sir Joseph Paxton in his great magazine of botany in 1844: this was his description of *CALLIANDRA TWEEDII*, at that time christened "*Inga pulcherrima*." This fine old shrub with its brilliant scarlet pom-pom flowers produced in great profusion several times during the year is not planted as much as its real merits entitle it to be. A large plant of it in our grounds is at this time a really fine spectacle and I hope will still be so when this Grapevine appears. This shrub will endure several degrees of frost without damage, flourishes and flowers well in full sun or half shade and while resistant to drought, it responds and flowers abundantly if well supplied with water. If you are fond of color, plant this *Calliandra*.

SEVILLE ORANGE . . .

(Continued from front page)

plant for which we propose our ornamental orange as a substitute. Its rate of growth is moderate, the plant attaining six to eight feet in a reasonable time; it asks only for an average soil and little care, and as with all citrus requires little or no shaping by the hand of man! This paragon of utility, beauty and eventual sustenance which we are pleased to commend to you is available in five gallon size at \$5.

A THOUGHT ON PLANT BUYING:

You purchase plants as you purchase stocks. You learn something of their origin, you compare them with other similar stocks, you weigh their potential to increase in value. You purchase, you never buy on impulse. Ray Miller.

. . . Appraising the garden problems which result from our warmest winter in a generation or more. Special weather calls for special garden technique, emphasis on certain plant materials and the passing by of others.

All our winter and spring bulbs will have been disappointing this season, the flowering fruit trees and the early Primroses will have come and quickly gone, due to no fault of the gardener or the plants. With day after day of dry northeast wind and weeks of temperatures in the high seventies and eighties we just cannot expect the optimum performance of flowers accustomed to the cool, damp days of an ordinary winter and spring. But we can mulch our beds to retain maximum moisture and water all plants twice as much as usual.

And with frequent overhead sprinkling and fogging (twice a day on the windy days) we can have a great show of *Cinerarias* through March and April—THE FINEST *CINERARIAS* IN YEARS BEDECK OUR LATH HOUSES AT THIS MINUTE—cornflower blue, royal blue, powder blue, pink and salmon, chalk white, wine tones and multicolors, 75 cents, \$1.25, and \$2 apiece, great big fat plants to be set a foot and one-half apart. The natural facer for these big *Cinerarias* is of course the *PRIMULA POLYANTHUS*—the tough perennial type—in white, yellow, gold, blue, violet, dark red, and some pinkish multicolors, all \$3.60 a dozen. Other shade plants of promise are *ASTILBE*, crimson and pink, \$2; *BLEEDING HEART*, \$1.50; some late *LILIES*—Tiger and Henryi at 40 cents; of course *CAMELLIAS*, now in their last great show, \$6.50 to \$15; and *RHO-DODENDRONS* in red, pink, rose, white and lavender, \$8 and \$15.

Among the most dry-wind tolerant of all sun-loving shrubs is the *CALLIANDRA TWEEDII*, Trinidad Flame Bush, which has brightened our drive for many weeks now and has more bloom to come, \$1.50 and \$4. Another *CALLIANDRA*, *INAEQUILATERA*, the Pink Powder Puff, has also been gaudy all winter (though it doesn't really like wind) and is still blooming in five gallon cans at \$5. This *Calliandra* is NOT for frosty areas.

Seldom has there been such a winter for *BOUGAINVILLEA* — the reds have been flashing brilliant masses of color for a month or more, wind, drought and all,

Rhyme in Season

The time has come, the earthworm said,
To speak of springtime plants:
Of Coral Bells and Clivias
And what to do with ants,
And what to fertilize and when,
And why scarecrows wear pants.

Perhaps you wonder just a bit
How come the earthworm knew
The many tricks of gardening
And why Bluebells are blue.
The answer's simple, for, you see,
He reads *The Grapevine*, too!

G.F.H.

and are now available in bloom in cans at \$1.50 and \$4.50. An unusual one which we have revived is Lady Richards, a lowish bushy subject in a somewhat muted purplish rose, a perfect sequence for the rosy mauve of SOUTH AFRICAN HEATHERS and the indescribable orchid pink of the GERALTON WAX FLOWER (both five gallon, \$4). Other outstanding shrub subjects for sun and wind include the FRENCH HEATHERS, golden CASSIA ARTEMISOIDES, brickdust red of Chinese Hat Plant — HOLMSKIOLDIA SANGUINEA (\$4, five gallon), brown-eyed yellow HALMIUM OCYMOIDES (\$1.25, one gallon), and the divers blues of California lilac, CEANOTHUS (\$1.25 and \$4).

In the perennial department allow us to recommend ECHIUM FASTUOSUM for its great blue spires soon to brighten windy hillsides; TRITOMA hybrids—the Red Hot Poker plants — in all yellow, yellow and orange, and various dwarfer new hybrids in softer tones; DIANTHUS in rosy-red, pink and white (85 cents); MORAEA, the beautiful-leaved South African Iris, in white and cream yellow, 85 cents and \$1.25; new bushy ICE PLANTS (*Lampranthus*) from South African seed, \$1.50, one gallon; PENSTEMON in pink, white and crimson, 75 cents, one gallon; newer GAZANIA hybrids, particularly a fine cream and a bronze-to-apricot, one gallon, 85 cents; two improved forms of the old AGATHEA COERULEA, bluer, longer blooming and larger-flowered, both 85 cents; and balled double HOLLYHOCKS in separate colors, 50 cents. The fine balled plants of CANTERBURY BELLS and FOXGLOVES at 45 cents will definitely require more shade than usual.

In bedding plants out of flats, let's forget the Pansies now, the **annual** Primroses, the Nemesias and Forget-me-nots, at least if the weather stays dry, and concentrate on PETUNIAS, MARIGOLD, ASTERS and AGERATUM, all 40 and 50 cents a dozen. But IF the weather should revert to cool dampness in March forget the Asters until April. The same goes for Impatiens and Coleus. SPRAY the entire garden again now for aphid (Black Leaf 40). AND DON'T FORGET TO WATER AND MULCH AND SPRINKLE AGAIN. Water deep and slowly, but syringe foliage often to clean off the dust. P.E.C.

PSEUDOPANAX . . .

(Continued from front page)

Araliads have a tricky habit of changing completely the design of their leaves as they progress through various stages of growth. This metamorphic tendency so deceived the eminent botanist, Sir Joseph Hooker that he believed he had under observation two distinct species, only to discern after fifteen years that they were identical!

Pseudopanax Lessoni (we could give you its Maori name for its hails from New Zealand, but it's hardly an improvement!) from OUR observation is a good, clean, strong-growing shrub with cleverly designed leathery green leaves. It is normally a large shrub or small tree but can be easily kept to relatively small proportions. The compound leaves (component leaflets are some four inches long) of *Pseudopanax Lessoni* are much more interesting than our familiar foliage fillers like *Viburnum*, *Pittosporum*, etc., and much more simpatico with contemporary design. It will grow in full sun but probably does better with afternoon shade, is not cranky about soil but prefers acidity if it's all the same to the landlord, and will endure without complaint about ten degrees of frost. We think our plants in four gallon containers look well worth their four-fifty price tags, and promise increasing value in ornament and usefulness in our local gardens. M.E.

CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY

Though Evans and Reeves will have a complete selection of the flowering plants which so well reflect the renascent spirit of the season, the Nursery will be closed Easter Sunday, April 5, so please order your gift plants early.

You are cordially invited to attend the 1953 **California International Flower Show** at Hollywood Park, March 14 through 22—seven acres of floral wonders including TWO Evans and Reeves exhibits!

One, A COMPLETE HOME LANDSCAPING JOB designed by Eric Armstrong and incorporating a lanai, play yard, flowers and vegetables, replete with ideas for every home garden, AND Two, A DISPLAY OF OUR OWN RARE AND EXOTIC PLANT SPECIALTIES—many of them introductions featured in past Grapevines or to be heralded when ready for public sale in the future!

Don't miss either outstanding display! Plan now to see the entire show. Open from 10:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. daily. Admission \$1.20.